

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes of December 22, 2015

- I. **ROLL CALL.** Chair John Quinn III, Select Board members, Lynn Doney, Matthew Gadbois, Kenneth W. Goslant, and K. David Maxwell. Also present were Town Manager Jeff Schulz; and Finance Director Laurie Baroffio.

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled): None**

- III. **FY 16/17 Budget**

Manager Schulz stated that the draft budget before the Board includes a budget increase (amount to be raised from taxes) of \$183,480. Based upon discussions during the budget process and a review of the budget, he has put together a list of recommended measures to reduce the increase down to approximately \$29,000. This was achieved through budgets cuts and the use of surplus for capital equipment/projects and debt.

The budget cuts from Operations and Maintenance include the following: the elimination of the ICMA retirement; which will result in a savings of approximately \$33,000 to \$35,000 from the general fund. Currently employees receive both the VT Municipal Employee Retirement (VEMERs) and the ICMA retirement – both of which result in the Town matching just over 10% of the employee's wages for retirement. VEMERs (which would remain) requires a 5.125% match by the Town. The Board asked whether there are other VT municipalities providing two retirements. Schulz stated that he was not aware of other municipalities offering more than one.

Schulz discussed other proposed recommended reductions in operations and maintenance include:

Ambulance:	Part-time wages	\$5,000
Highway:	Gravel	\$4,000
	Sand	\$5,000
	Chemicals	\$2,000
	Part-time	\$3,000
Cemetery:	Tree removal	\$1,000
(there will be \$5,000 in FY 14/15 and FY 16/17 budget)		
Parks and Grounds:		
	Part-time	\$7,200

Capital equipment changes include:

Ambulance:

Not Funding Ford Recuse: \$10,000

Schulz also discussed a recommendation to use a portion of the municipal surplus for funding the following projects currently in CIP:

Cemetery Wall

Library Roof

(2) auto pulse

14 Ambulance

08 Ambulance

Ambulance Chairs

Schulz also recommended using surplus to reduce debt on the following:

Fire Pumper Truck

13 - One Ton Truck

14 - One ton Truck

The Board discussed several other possible changes to the budget; which included future use of the road side mower, the street sweeper and other equipment. The Board also discussed the need for more information on the pool operations and the maintenance service agreement for the library elevator. The Board also directed staff to put the funding requests for Home Health and Hospice (\$12,500) and the GMTA commuter (\$21,000) on the ballot versus in the budget.

The next budget meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 29, 2015.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled). There was none.

V. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Select Board member Gadbois, seconded by Select Board member Goslant to adjourn. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

The Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Schulz

Jeff Schulz, Clerk

These minutes were approved at the regular Select Board meeting of January 12, 2016.